

IN THE CLAIMS:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims being examined, whether or not amended, are presented below.

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 18-21, 23, 25, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, and 49.

1-3. (Cancel)

4. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment of cerebral ischemia which comprises systemically administering to a patient in need thereof a *hedgehog* polypeptide in an amount effective to reduce cerebral ischemia, wherein said *hedgehog* polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that (a) binds to a naturally occurring *patched* receptor and promotes *hedgehog* signal transduction, and (b) is encodable by a nucleic acid ~~that hybridizes under stringent conditions, including a wash step of 0.2 x SSC at 65 °C, to a nucleic acid~~ sequence designated in ~~at least one of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, or SEQ ID NO: 6, or an N-terminal auto-proteolytic fragment thereof.~~

5-21. (Cancel)

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 ~~any of claims 3-6~~, wherein the patient is treated prophylactically.

23-25. (Cancel)

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 ~~any of claims 3-6~~, further comprising administering one or more of an anticoagulant, an antiplatelet agent, a thrombin inhibitor, and/or a thrombolytic agent.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 ~~any of claims 3-6~~, further comprising performing vascular surgery.

28. **(Original)** The method of claim 27, wherein the vascular surgery comprises carotid endarterectomy.

29-40. **(Cancel)**

41. **(Currently amended)** A method for the treatment of cerebral ischemia which comprises systemically administering to a patient in need thereof a *hedgehog* polypeptide in an amount effective to reduce cerebral ischemia, wherein said *hedgehog* polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that (a) binds to a naturally occurring *patched* receptor and promotes *hedgehog* signal transduction, and (b) is ~~at least 80% identical to at least one of SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, or an N-terminal auto-proteolytic a bioactive fragment of at least 50 contiguous amino acids thereof.~~

42-44. **(Cancel)**

45. **(Currently amended)** A method for the treatment of cerebral ischemia which comprises systemically administering to a patient in need thereof a *hedgehog* polypeptide and at least one additional agent, in an amount effective to reduce cerebral ischemia, wherein said *hedgehog* polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that (a) binds to a naturally occurring *patched* receptor and promotes *hedgehog* signal transduction, and (b) is identical to encodable by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions, including a wash step of 0.2 x SSC at 65°C, to a nucleic acid sequence designated in at least one of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 134, SEQ ID NO: 5, or SEQ ID NO: 156, or an N-terminal auto-proteolytic fragment thereof, and wherein said additional agent is selected from at least one of an anticoagulant, an antiplatelet agent, a thrombin inhibitor, or a thrombolytic agent.

46-47. **(Cancel)**

48. **(Currently amended)** A method for the treatment of cerebral ischemia which comprises systemically administering to a patient in need thereof a *hedgehog* polypeptide in an amount effective to reduce cerebral ischemia, wherein said *hedgehog* polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that (a) binds to a naturally occurring *patched* receptor and promotes *hedgehog*

signal transduction, and (b) is identical to encodable by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions, including a wash step of 0.2 x SSC at 65 °C, to a nucleic acid sequence designated in at least one of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 134, SEQ ID NO: 5, or SEQ ID NO: 156, or an N-terminal auto-proteolytic fragment thereof. and wherein said method additionally includes surgery.

49. (Cancel)